



**Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District**  
**Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**HMT Dryland Conference Room**  
**March 11, 2020**

**Attendees:**

PFAC Members: Ken Ratterree (Chair), Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary), Tricia Lance, Carl Nelson, Michael Reidel, Alaka Sarangdhar, Tiago Zuccari

Absent: Kristin Abele, Galit Pinker, Pat Sheleny

Guests: Tamer Kiykioglu, sponsor to Meadow Waye Park

Staff Presentation: John Ackerman, Park Maintenance Specialist-south; Sam Haag, Park Maintenance Specialist-south; Steve Gulgren, Senior Park Planner

Staff: Wendy Kroger (Board liaison), Jon Campbell, Brenda Peterson

**Call Meeting to Order:** Ken called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

**Approval of Minutes:** Carl moved to accept the minutes as presented; Tricia seconded the motion and the February 12, 2020 minutes were approved.

**Guest Presentation**

**Tamer Kiykioglu, Meadow Way Pesticide Free Pilot Project**

Tamer met the committee first time September 2018, and after multiple conversations with staff, the committee supported the project and had staff create a MoU with THPRD.

Jon personally thanked Tamer for championing the program. Tamer has been a great steward for this project and has personally spent a lot of effort to maintain the park to THPRD standards.

After Jon introduced Tamer, he described his role and updated the committee about the Meadow Way Park Pesticide Free Pilot Project.

- Tamer: The project started with neighbors observed chemicals being sprayed in their neighborhood yards (owners) and in the park. As a start, neighbors took initiative to not use pesticides/herbicides in their yards, and extended the discussion with district staff to include Meadow Waye Park. Acknowledging THPRD staff are professionals, certified and follow safe practices for use of herbicide to control weeds, Tamer and neighbors wanted to eliminate the practice of spraying in this park. Tamer worked with Jon and park maintenance staff, discussed and came to an agreement about how to make this pilot happen. Focus was to maintain weeds in the bark dust areas, plant/tree beds,

fence lines etc. without use of any applications. Neighbors helped a bit, but Tamer took the initiative personally and tracked the effort closely. In summary, he estimates spending about 25 hours over the year of his effort. Jon's team helped with additional mulch. Tamer's feedback is that hand weeding, done well is quite effective; and the park is reflecting better health vs last year at the same time.

- Tamer: Meadow Waye Park is a multi-use park (including athletic fields) and is very busy. Tamer requested to staff to include the turf/lawn area completely spray free as well. Feedback is to consider use of organic fertilizer for the turf to remain healthy.
  - Jon: Staff are researching fertilizer choices for future opportunities. New information will be brought to the committee.
- Carl: How have you engaged the neighborhood on this project?
  - Tamer: talking with everyone around the park; starting with more amenable individuals first.
- Ken: Will some of the neighbors continue to volunteer this year too?
  - Tamer: Yes, we have 2-4 neighbors wanting to pitch in. Will try to make a community event for awareness.
- Carl: Any idea about cost savings due to lesser spray usage?
  - Jon: This park is small, and we had very little spray use on this park. We rely on the recycled bark chips as a primary way to control weeds. Park techs confirmed this practice that we use spraying as a last resort.
  - Jon: The district has not sprayed any glyphosate products since summer of 2019 after concerns were raised about that product.

## **Staff Presentations**

John Ackerman, Park Maintenance Specialist-south

Sam Haag, Park Maintenance Specialist-south

John and Sam introduced themselves, described their weekly park maintenance routes, described their 'showcase' parks, walked through services that these sites receive from the technicians, recent projects accomplished in their areas, and what each of them like about their jobs and their roles with THPRD.

- Tricia: Plays softball...Has the texture of the infield changed (scraps due to sliding), in the last few years?
  - Sam: material hasn't changed over the years, but maintenance may have depending on the field (ex: irrigation). If there was a change, staff will report it to the committee.
- Tricia: how does THPRD work with affiliate leagues to ensure there're enough fields for their programs?
  - Sam: This is done by the programming team, who do look/monitor how many teams/leagues are in the area and align programs accordingly.
- Carl: how many Technicians in the team?
  - Jon: We have about 120 full time and part time employees in Maintenance Operations.
  - [Upon returning to the office, Brenda noted that there are about 70 current staff in park maintenance, but another large group is hired for the late spring/summer season.]

- Wendy: Many people compliment the ambassadors who take care of the parks and facilities. They love the fact that the public can put a name and face to the services; and are appreciative of the services the park technicians provide

Steve Gulgren, Senior Park Planner

Steve worked in Design & Development for more than 13 years before transferring, and is in his fourth year with the maintenance department. Steve's presentation included discussion on the process, challenges and impacts of adding new amenities into our parks.

After Jon's introduction, Steve described work planned and completed at Roger Tilbury Memorial Park. Funded with the last bond measure, the entire master plan couldn't be completed without additional grant dollars. Funds allotted for the project were used to install a playground and other small amenities. It did not allow for the construction of a bridge connecting two neighborhoods on the southwest side of the property.

Since the completion of the initial project, one of the challenges to complete the master plan, includes working with other agencies when a water feature (stream/creek) is an amenity of the park. Adding a bridge is still on the list of Capital Improvement Projects, but won't be actively discussed again for a few years.

- Wendy: This project is just one of many that Steve has handled, at different phases of different projects. It's good to have him on the maintenance team, as he has been very involved in the planning phases of many of these projects.

**Old Business:**

Jon read a thank you card to the committee sent by Cindy Dauer.

Ken will be presenting the request for advisory committee grant funds to be used (and for additional leverage with other grants for the Somerset West Park project at the Joint Advisory Committee meeting in April.

**New Business:**

Tricia: Are we going to have alternate plans for next month's joint meeting.

- Jon: yes, THPRD is working on defining policy. THPRD has increased the cleaning cycles within facilities, and are working with school district and other agencies to co-ordinate the messaging.
- It would be good to have CDC approved warning messages at the front desk of various facilities we have.

**Next Meeting:**

Scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 6:15pm for the Joint Advisory Committee Meeting at the Fanno Creek Service Center (6220 SW 112<sup>th</sup> Ave). (Meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 and held on July 29, 2020)

**Meeting Adjourned:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm